Export of clothes

†*155. SHRI UDAYPRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to increase the target of export of clothes during the year 2005-06; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The export target for readymade garments for the year 2005-06 has been fixed at US$ 6.45 billion, which is 7.5% higher than last year's target and 17.3% higher than last year's achievement.

Fall in industrial production

*166. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Index for industrial production fell to 4.9 per cent during February, 2005 compared to 8.3 per cent registered in February, 2004;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the negative growth in 2005 and the steps Government propose to take to improve the industrial growth during 2005-06; and

(c) to what extent these steps have been able to improve the industrial growth in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to Quick Estimates released by the Central statistical Organisation, the growth in the overall industrial production was 4.9% in February, 2005 compared to 8.3% in February, 2004.

(b) The lower growth rate in February, 2005 was due to lower growth of output of mining & quarrying, electricity generation, food products and wool, silk and man-made fibres.

The Government has initiated serveral steps to hasten the pace of industrial growth, including rationalization in duty rates of customs and central excise. Measures to promote manufacturing and the requisite physical infrastructure such as the Industrial Infrastructure Up-gradation Scheme (IIUS) to enhance productivity-competitiveness of the domestic industry by providing quality infrastructure in functional clusters and the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Industrial Park Scheme have been initiated. Special incentives are being given to promote industrialization in the North-East Region and in the special category States.

(c) As per the CSO figures, the overall annual growth rate of the industrial sector in 2004-05 was 8.3% as against 7% in 2003-04, and the industrial growth for the month of May, 2005 rose to 10.8%.

Floods in the country

*157. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether floods have caused havoc in many States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount of loss caused to each State;

(c) whether Government have provided relief and given grants to overcome the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to check floods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a)to(d) During the current South West Monsobn 2005, a number of States have been affected by floods causing loss of life and extensive damage to property and infrastructure. The provisional estimates of damage due to the floods in the current South West Monsoon season, based on the assessment reports received from the State Governments, are given in the Statement-I (See below).

As per the existing Scheme of Financing Relief Expenditure, the State Government concerned is responsible for undertaking relief and rehabilitation measures in the areas affected by natural calamities, including floods out of the corpus of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), which is contributed by the Government of India and the State Government in the ratio of 3:1. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial and logistic support, wherever necessary. In case the calamity is of a servere nature and the funds available in the State's CRF account are not sufficient, additional assistance is provided to the States out of the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), after following the established procedure.

The financial assistance in the wake of natural calamities is provided as per approved items and norms of expenditure under CRF/NCCF.